

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13  
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NSCE-00 ICAE-00 HA-05 SY-05 EB-08 MCT-01 /106 W  
-----019829 141320Z /44

O P 141235Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8711  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE  
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 14, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3911 (DTG 131135Z JUL 78)

1. SUMMARY: THE UNEASY CEASE-FIRE STILL HOLDS. PRESIDENT SARKIS  
HAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED NOT TO RESIGN FOR AT LEAST THREE MORE DAYS.  
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PIERRE GEMAYEL SAID SARKIS' RESIGNATION MIGHT LEAD TO LEBANON'S  
PARTITION INTO "THREE MINI-STATES." SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH SAID  
CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S OPEN LETTER TO SARKIS HAD SLANDERED THE PRESI-  
DENT. PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS BRIEFLY CAPTURED 51 UNIFIL TROOPS  
IN SOUTH LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. CEASE-FIRE STILL HOLDS.

A. THE UNEASY CEASE-FIRE STILL HOLDS, BUT PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL HOSS TOLD REPORTERS ON JULY 13 THAT HE WAS "NOT IN A POSITION" TO ANSWER A QUESTION ON WHETHER CLASHES MIGHT BE RESUMED IN BEIRUT. SUPERFICIALLY, SECURITY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE SOMEWHAT IN EAST BEIRUT AS A FEW MORE CARS HAVE APPEARED ON THE ROADS AND A FEW MORE SHOPS HAVE OPENED. THE LEBANESE POLICE TOOK OVER TWO MORE CHECKPOINTS IN EAST BEIRUT ON JULY 13, ALTHOUGH THE SYRIANS REMAINED NEARBY (LEBANESE POLICE HAD PREVIOUSLY TAKEN OVER THE CHECKPOINT AT QARANTINA BRIDGE).

B. MANY LEBANESE HAVE BEEN LEAVING THE COUNTRY. AIRLINES REPORT RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE 2-1/2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE ON DEPARTING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.

3. PRESIDENT SARKIS' RESIGNATION STILL FROZEN.

PRESIDENT SARKIS IS STILL UNDECIDED WHETHER TO WITHDRAW HIS THREAT TO RESIGN, BEIRUT PRESS REPORTED ON JULY 14. ACCORDING TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE, THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO RESIGN FOR AT LEAST THREE MORE DAYS, BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

A. THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL AHMAD AL SABAH AND SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD AL FAYSAL HAVE ASKED THE PRESIDENT NOT TO RESIGN;

B. "LINES OF COMMUNICATION" BETWEEN PRESIDENTS SARKIS AND SYRIA HAVE BEEN RESTORED;

C. CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S JULY 12 OPEN LETTER TO SARKIS (SEE PREVIOUS SITREP) WAS REGARDED BY THE LATTER AS AN INSULT AND HAS "EMBOLDENED THE PRESIDENT, EVEN PUT HIM IN A FIGHTING MOOD."  
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4. GEMAYEL WARNS OF PARTITION.

PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL WARNED JULY 13 THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS' RESIGNATION MAY LEAD TO LEBANON'S PARTITION "INTO THREE MINI-STATES AS A PRELUDE TO THE EMERGENCE OF OTHER MINI-STATES IN THE REGION." GEMAYEL CALLED ON "EVERY MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, EVERY MINISTER AND EVERY OFFICIAL OF ALL LEVELS" TO RESIGN IF SARKIS GOES AHEAD WITH HIS RESIGNATION, "SO THAT WE WILL EITHER SAVE LEBANON TOGETHER OR BE RESPONSIBLE TOGETHER FOR ITS DESTRUCTION."

5. FRANJIYAH ON EAST BEIRUT ATTACK.

COMMENTING ON CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT SARKIS, FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH SAID THE LETTER SLANDERED THE PRESIDENT AND "POURED OIL ON THE FIRE." FRANJIYAH AFFIRMED THAT "CHAMOUN ALSO KNOWS FULL WELL THAT THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES' BOMBARDMENT OF SOME BEIRUT NEIGHBORHOODS AND SUBURBS WAS NOT WITHOUT CAUSE, AND HE KNOWS THE CAUSE." FRANJIYAH REPEATED HIS CHARGE THAT THE PHALANGE PARTY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRE AT IHDIN LAST MONTH.

6. REJECTIONISTS TAKE UNIFIL PRISONERS.

A. REJECTIONIST PALESTINIANS HELD 51 UNIFIL TROOPS CAPTIVE IN SOUTH LEBANON FOR ABOUT FIVE HOURS ON JULY 13. TWENTY-NINE OF PRISONERS WERE IRANIAN, THE REST FRENCH AND SENEGALESE. ALL WERE SEIZED AS THEY WERE DRIVING IN AND AROUND THE AREA OF TYRE.

B. THE REJECTIONISTS TOOK THE PRISONERS IN RETALIATION TO THE ENCIRCLEMENT OF REJECTIONIST COMMANDOS BEHIND UNIFIL LINES BY FRENCH TROOPS. THE UNIFIL SOLDIERS WERE RELEASED AFTER INTERVENTION BY UNITED NATIONS AND FATAH LIAISON OFFICERS.

DECONTROL SEPT 15, 1978.

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
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